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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : James Crawford  
Serial No. : 09/597,784  
Filed : June 19, 2000  
Title : DIRECT FILE TRANSFER BETWEEN SUBSCRIBERS OF A  
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

Art Unit : 2141  
Examiner : April L. Baugh

**MAIL STOP AF**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION OF MAY 3, 2005

Claims 1-40 and 45-64 are pending in this application with claims 1, 14, 29, 30, 31, 36 and 45 being independent.

Independent claims 1, 14, 29, 30, 31, 36, and 45, and dependent claims 2-13, 15-28, 32-35, 37-40, and 46-64, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Hutton (U.S. Patent No. 6,513,066) in view of Haumont (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0097709).

Claims 1, 29, and 31 recite a method, apparatus, and computer program for transferring a file from a first client to a second client. Language from claim 1 is quoted below as exemplary. Incident to the claimed transfer, are limitations of "sending, through the communications system host, a request to the second client to establish a direct connection to the second client; [and] if a user of the second client accepts the request, establishing a direct connection to the second client that *bypasses the communications system host ...*" (emphasis added.)

Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 29, and 31 because neither Hutton, Haumont, nor any proper combination of the two describes or suggests the recited operation of sending, through the communications system host, a request to establish a direct connection with the second client and establishing a direct connection that *bypasses the communications system host* if a user of the second client accepts the request.

Hutton discloses a communications system 10 that includes a connection server 26, a first processing unit 12, and a second processing unit 22. On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that Hutton does not describe or suggest "if a user of the second client

accepts the request, establishing a direct connection to the second client that *bypasses the communications system host*" (emphasis added).

The Examiner therefore refers to the teachings of Haumont to address this deficiency of Hutton. Applicant disagrees.

Haumont describes a communication system that includes a host system, comprised of a database 200, multiple gateway nodes GGSN, and multiple serving nodes SGSN, in communication with client systems, comprised of multiple user equipments UE, through radio access networks RAN. See Fig. 1.

Haumont's system enables a communication connection to be established between a first user equipment UE A and a second user equipment UE B as follows: a first user equipment UE A sends a request for establishing a communication connection to a second user equipment UE B by forwarding the request to a first serving node SGSN A. By accessing the database 200, the first serving node SGSN A identifies and contacts through a direct connection a second serving node SGSN B that services second user equipment UE B. The second serving node SGSN B contacts the second user equipment UE B to determine whether the second user equipment UE B is reachable. If the second user equipment UE B is reachable, the communication connection is setup, enabling data to flow from UE A-> SGSN A -> SGSN B -> UE B and vice versa, respectively. See Fig. 2 and paragraphs 0032-0039.

Notably, the direct connection established in Haumont's system is between the serving nodes SGSN A and SGSN B of the host system and, therefore, is not a direct connection between first user equipment UE A and second user equipment UE B that *bypasses the host system*. Accordingly, Haumont does not describe or suggest establishing a direct connection between client systems that *bypasses the communications system host* through which the connection request was sent, much less establishing such a direct connection based on user acceptance of the connection request.

For at least these reasons, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 29, 31, and their dependent claims.

Claims 14, 30, and 36 recite a method, apparatus, and computer program that include the limitation "receiving, through the communications system host, a request from the first client to establish a direct connection; enabling *a user to accept* the request from the first client; establishing a direct connection to the first client that *bypasses the communications system host*; ... " (emphasis added). For at least the reasons discussed above, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14, 30, 36 and their dependent claims.

Claim 45 recites a user interface that includes "a first graphical user interface element structured and arranged to notify an operator of the second client of a request by the first client to establish a direct connection to the second client, the request being communicated to the second client by the communications system host and the direct connection *bypassing the communications system host*" (emphasis added) and "a second graphical user interface element structured and arranged to enable an operator of the second client to authorize the establishment of the direct connection and a file transfer over the direct connection" For at least the reasons discussed above, neither Hutton, Haumont, nor any proper combination of the two, describes or suggests a user interface element that enables an operator of a second client to authorize establishment of a direct connection between the second client and a first client that bypasses the communication system host through which the first client sent the request for the connection.

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

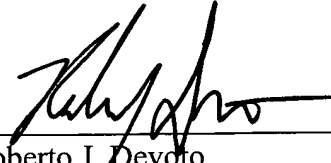
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Respectfully submitted,

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